30 YEARS LATER
PART 3 OF 4
#7
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Tracy Yardley!
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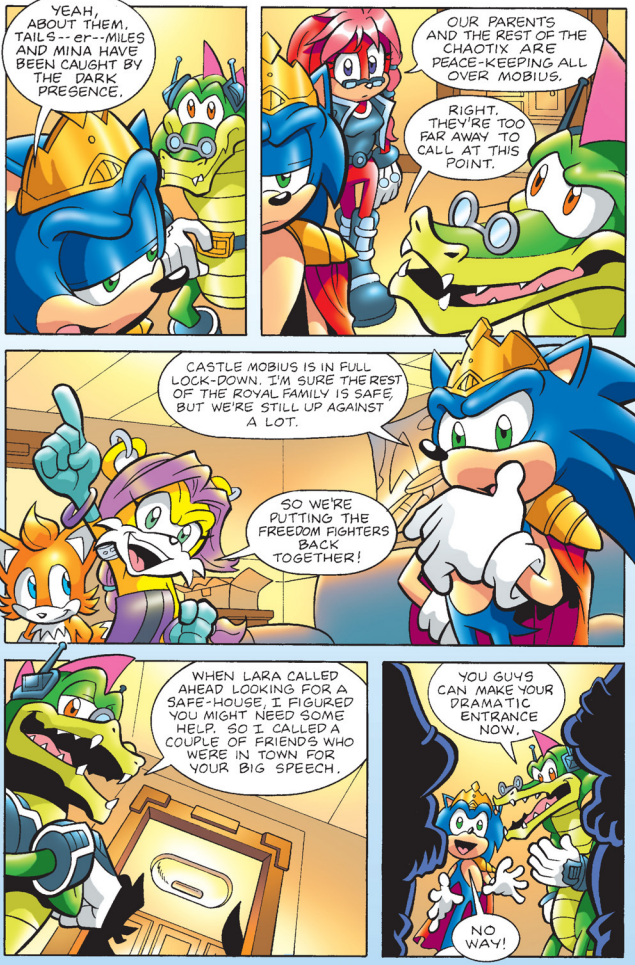
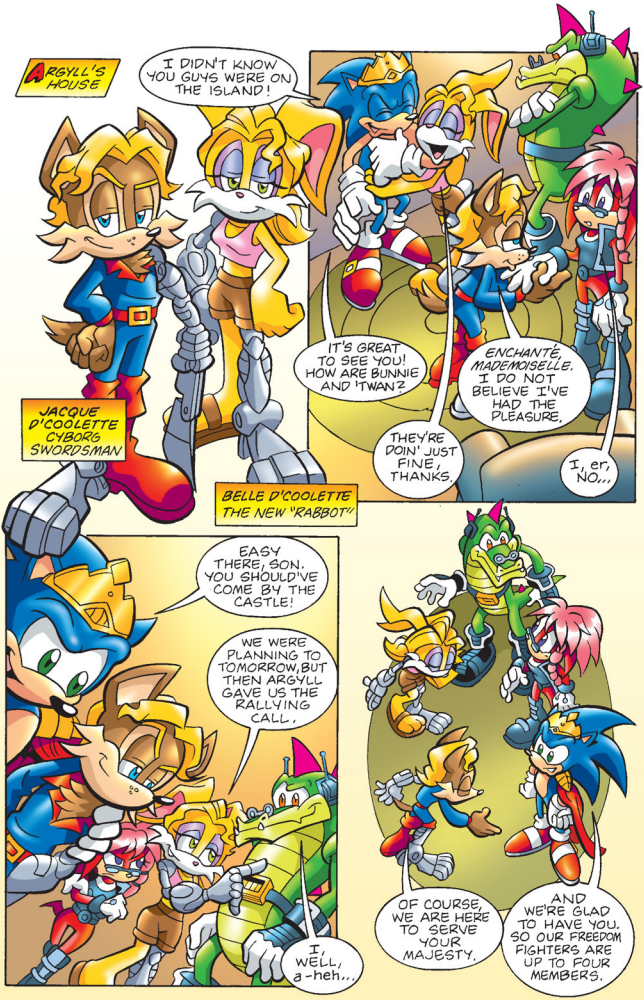
WHY ARE YOU CARRYING THIS SLEEPING GUY?
MR. SILVER WAS KNOCKED OUT BY THE ENEMY, DEAR. HE'S THE ONE WHO STOPPED THAT ROCKET THIS MORNING, REMEMBER?
OH YEAH! THAT WAS REALLY NICE OF HIM.
WAIT A MINUTE-- ENEMY? IN THE CASTLE?
WELL, WE'LL JUST TELL THEM TO LEAVE!
NO, DEAR. THE CASTLE HAS BEEN LOCKED DOWN. WE NEED TO GET WHERE IT'S SAFE.
YAWN!
I HAVE TO USE THE BATHROOM.
GRRNE!
ONCE WE'RE IN THE PANIC ROOM, DEAR.
PANIC ROOM?
HIDEY-ROOM, I MEAN.
W-WHERE'S DADDY?
I'M SURE HE'S SAFE.
WHILE WE HIDE AWAY...

"...HE'S GONE TO GET HELP."
HEY. SORRY TO CALL YOU SO LATE.
DON'T SWEAT IT, LARA. DESPERATE TIMES, DESPERATE MEASURES AND ALL THAT JAZZ.
LARA-SU GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG KING OF MOBIUS
YOUR MAJESTY!
RELAX. WE'VE GOT TOO MUCH GOING ON TONIGHT TO STAND ON FORMALITY.
ARGYLL CROCODILE VECTOR'S SON
DO YOU ALL KNOW EACH OTHER?
NO, BUT I KNOW ABOUT YOUR PARENTS. IT'S A PLEASURE AND AN HONOR!
SAME HERE! I MEAN, C'MON, YOUR DAD IS HEAD OF THE CHAOTIX!
SKYE PROWER BASHFUL BUILDER
MELODY PROWER SPEEDY SONGSTRESS

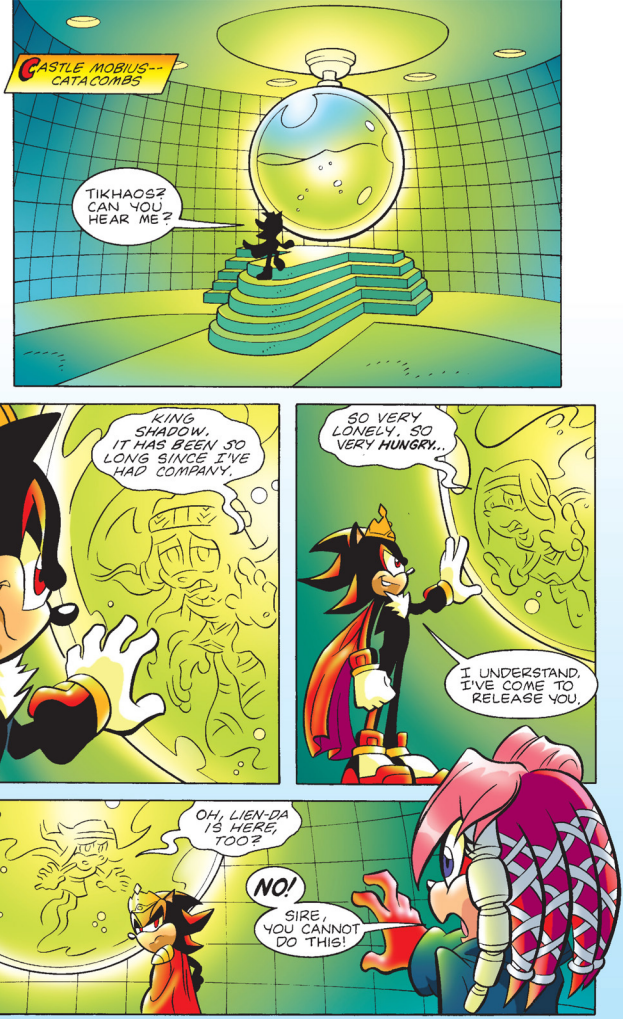

YEAH, ABOUT THEM, TAILS -- er -- MILES AND MINA HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY THE DARK PRESENCE.
OUR PARENTS AND THE REST OF THE CHAOTIX ARE PEACE-KEEPING ALL OVER MOBIUS.
RIGHT. THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY TO CALL AT THIS POINT.
CASTLE MOBIUS IS IN FULL LOCK-DOWN. I'M SURE THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY IS SAFE, BUT WE'RE STILL UP AGAINST A LOT.
SO WE'RE PUTTING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS BACK TOGETHER!
WHEN LARA CALLED AHEAD LOOKING FOR A SAFE-HOUSE, I FIGURED YOU MIGHT NEED SOME HELP. SO I CALLED A COUPLE OF FRIENDS WHO WERE IN TOWN FOR YOUR BIG SPEECH.
YOU GUYS CAN MAKE YOUR DRAMATIC ENTRANCE NOW.
NO WAY!

CASTLE MOBIUS--CATACOMBS
WELCOME BACK TO US, YOUR MAJESTY.
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG FORMER KING OF MOBIUS
LIEN-DA LEADER OF THE DARK PRESENCE
DARK HAND FIELD AGENT FOR THE DARK PRESENCE
SHE USED CHAOS CONTROL TO FREEZE YOU IN TIME. YOU'VE BEEN SEALED IN YOUR OWN CATACOMBS, YOUR STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION MAINTAINED BY THIS DEVICE.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED? THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS FIGHTING THE GUARDIAN'S DAUGHTER IN MY THRONE ROOM.
HE CHECKS OUT. ALL VITALS ARE STABLE.
AFTER FIVE YEARS? YOU ARE THE ULTIMATE LIFE-FORM, SIRE.
FIVE YEARS?
YES SIR.
THE QUEEN HAS REMARRIED AND HAD TWINS. THE WORLD HAS MOSTLY ACCEPTED THEIR-- um...
FOLLOW. KEEP TALKING.

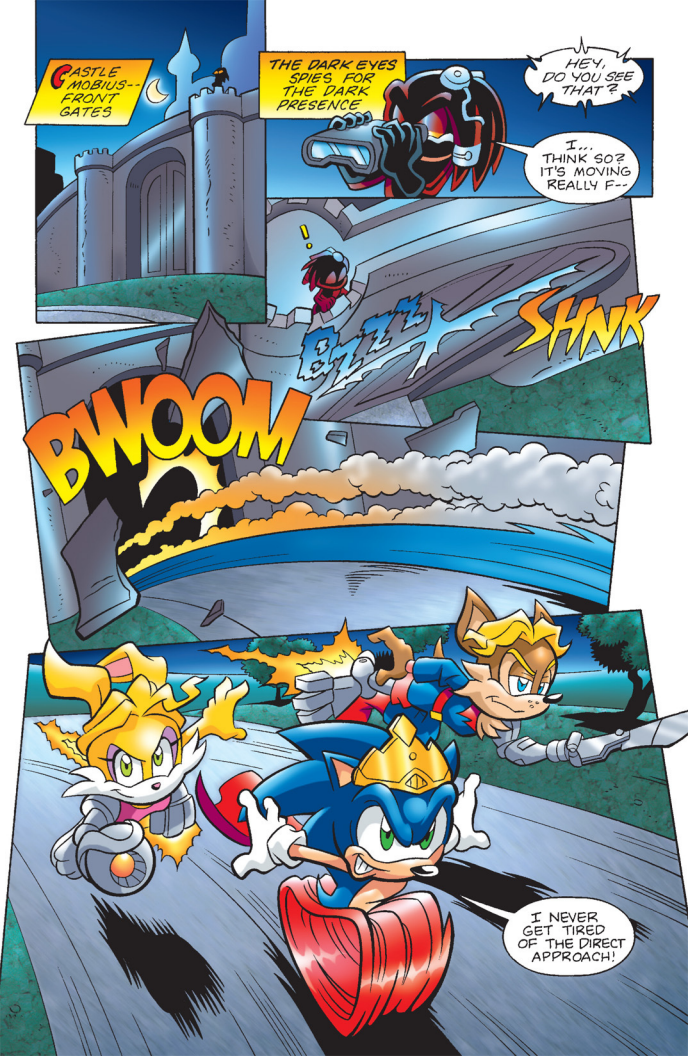
AS I WAS SAYING: MOST OF THE WORLD HAS GONE ALONG WITH THEIR NEW RULES.
WE'VE TRIED TO DESTABILIZE THINGS, BUT THE CHAOTIX AND POPULAR OPINION HAVE KEPT US AT BAY.
WE'VE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY FOR THIS DAY. THE CASTLE HAS BEEN SECURED AND YOU'VE BEEN FREED. THE WORLD IS POISED FOR YOU TO RETURN AND SET IT BACK ON TRACK.
NO.
VOCAL OVERRIDE: "MARIA'S WISH."
NO? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIRE.
REGAINING CONTROL IS NOT ENOUGH. THE WORLD MUST BE PUNISHED FOR ITS INACTION--FOR MY DISGRACE.
N-NO! NOT WITH *THAT!*


ARGYLL'S HOUSE
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE ON THE ISLAND!
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU! HOW ARE BUNNIE AND 'TWANZ
ENCHANTÉ, MADEMOISELLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE,
THEY'RE DOIN' JUST FINE, THANKS.
I, er, NO...
JACQUE D'COOLETTE CYBORG SWORDSMAN
BELLE D'COOLETTE THE NEW "RABBOT"
EASY THERE, SON. YOU SHOULD'VE COME BY THE CASTLE!
WE WERE PLANNING TO TOMORROW, BUT THEN ARGYLL GAVE US THE RALLYING CALL.
I, WELL, a-heh...
OF COURSE, WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOUR MAJESTY.
AND WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU, SO OUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE UP TO FOUR MEMBERS.

EXCUSE ME, BUT THERE'S SIX! WE'RE GOING TO HELP RESCUE OUR PARENTS, TOO! RIGHT, SKYE?
If that's okay with you.
R-right. RIGHT! WE'RE COMING WITH YOU.
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
DON'T COUNT ME OUT! I CAN DO MORE THAN PROVIDE A STAGING GROUND. I CAN PIRATE THE DARK PRESENCE'S SIGNAL AND KEEP YOU ALL UPDATED.
ALL RIGHT THEN!
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
LET'S DO IT TO IT!
I told you he says it!
I know! I'm geeking out!

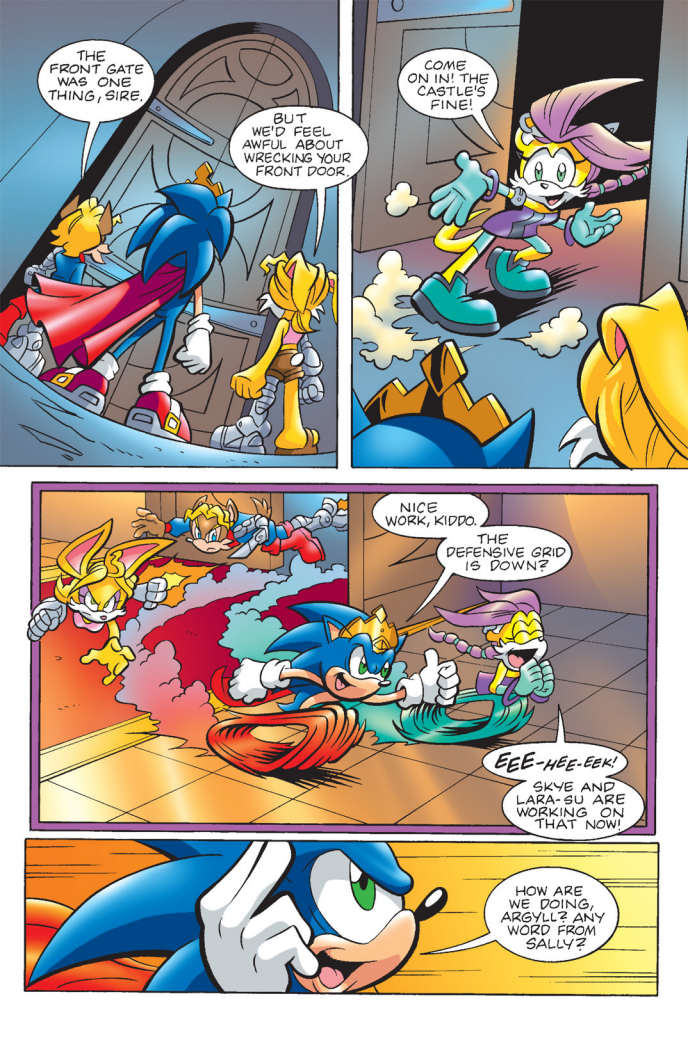

CASTLE MOBIUS--- CATACOMBS
TIKHAOSZ CAN YOU HEAR ME?
KING SHADOW, IT HAS BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD COMPANY.
SO VERY LONELY. SO VERY HUNGRY...
I UNDERSTAND. I'VE COME TO RELEASE YOU.
OH, LIEN-DA IS HERE, TOO?
NO!
SIRE, YOU CANNOT DO THIS!

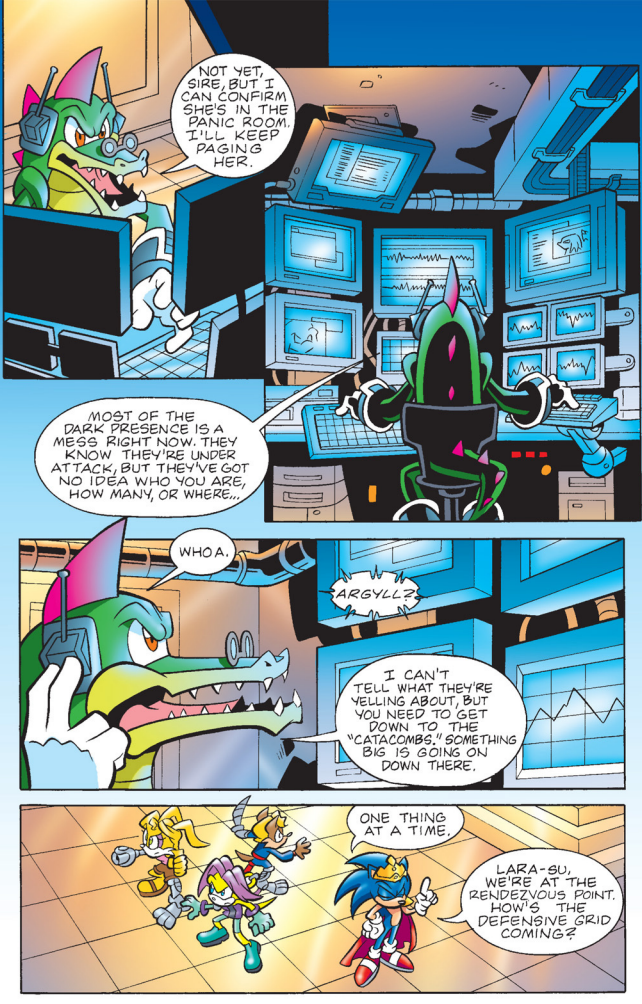
I RELEASED YOU TO BRING BACK YOUR STERN RULE! TO PUNISH THOSE WHO LOCKED YOU AWAY! THIS--SHE IS TOO MUCH!
THAT ARMBAND, IT IS WHAT PROTECTS YOU FROM THE SHIFT IN THE TIME-LINE, CORRECT?*
*AS HAPPENED IN STH #166
Y-YES, BUT WHY--
CRACK!!
NO!!!
RUTAN...!
NOW THEN, LET'S REINTRODUCE YOU TO THE WORLD.


CASTLE MOBIUS--FRONT GATES
THE DARK EYES SPIES FOR THE DARK PRESENCE
HEY, DO YOU SEE THAT?
I... THINK SO? IT'S MOVING REALLY F--
!
BZZZT
SHNK
BWOOM
I NEVER GET TIRED OF THE DIRECT APPROACH!

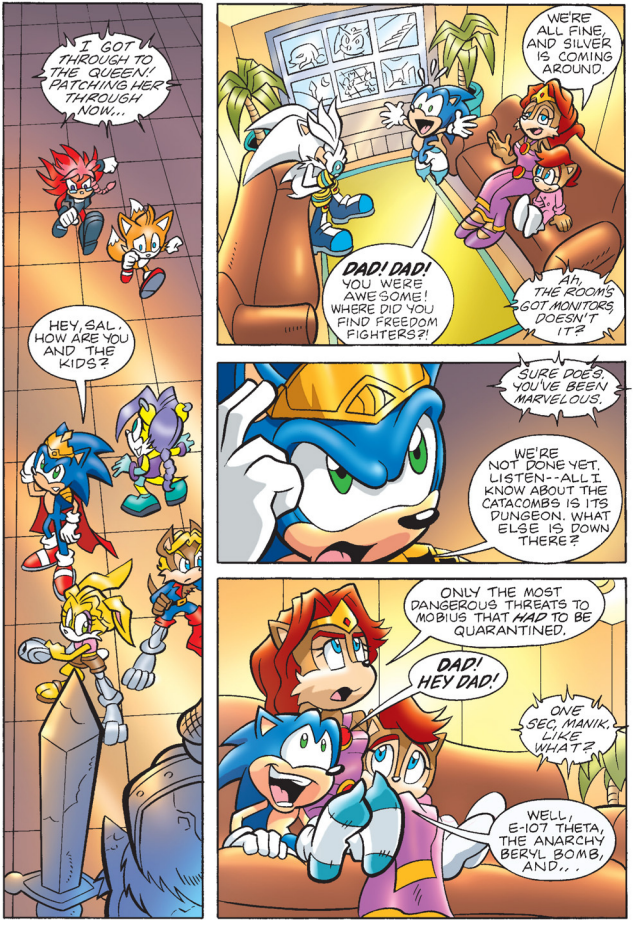
WOW, THEY REALLY GOT THEIR ATTENTION. YOUR TEAM IS CLEAR.
THANKS, ARGYLL. KEEP ME UPDATED. LET'S MOVE, GUYS.
WOULD YOU STOP SHOW-BOATING?!
HE'S STILL LEARNING TO FLY! HE CAN'T DO IT LIKE DAD DOES!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO KNOW THAT GOING IN.
OKAY, FOLLOW ME-- QUICK AND QUIET!

THERE ARE A FEW DARK EYES IN THERE.
I'M QUICK ENOUGH! WE CAN TAKE 'EM DOWN BEFORE ANYONE CAN TRIGGER AN ALARM!
I GUESS I'LL HANG OUT HERE UNTIL YOU'RE DONE...
ACTUALLY... YOU GO IN FIRST!

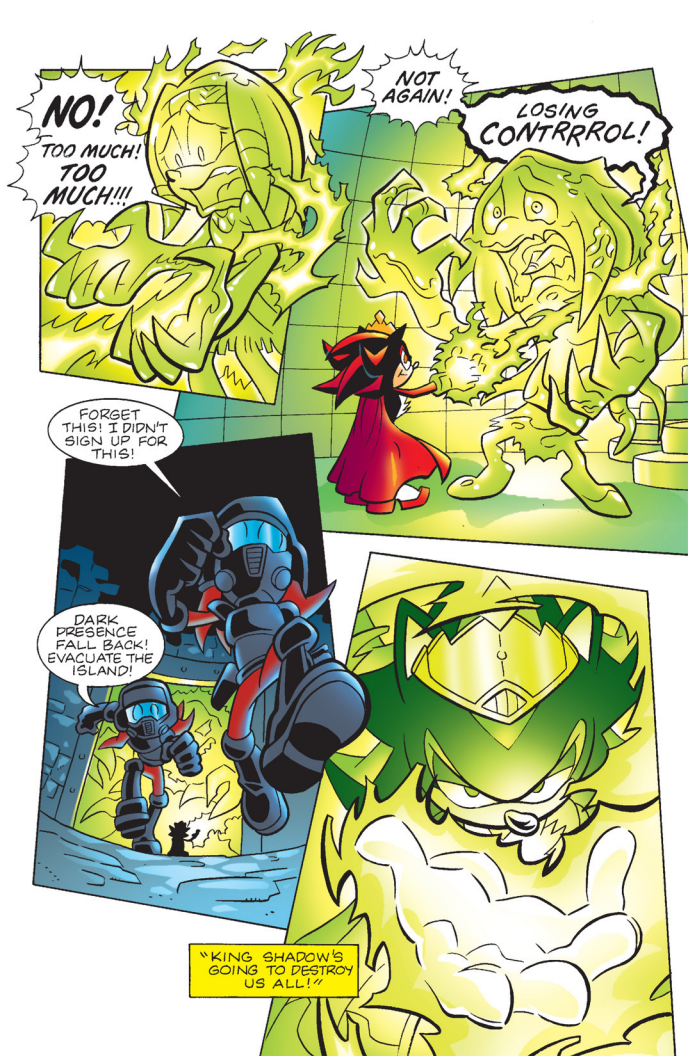

THE FRONT GATE WAS ONE THING, SIRE.
BUT WE'D FEEL AWFUL ABOUT WRECKING YOUR FRONT DOOR.
COME ON IN! THE CASTLE'S FINE!
NICE WORK, KIDDO.
THE DEFENSIVE GRID IS DOWN?
EEE-HEE-EEK!
SKYE AND LARA-SU ARE WORKING ON THAT NOW!
HOW ARE WE DOING, ARGYLL? ANY WORD FROM SALLY?


NOT YET, SIRE, BUT I CAN CONFIRM SHE'S IN THE PANIC ROOM. I'LL KEEP PAGING HER.
MOST OF THE DARK PRESENCE IS A MESS RIGHT NOW. THEY KNOW THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK, BUT THEY'VE GOT NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE, HOW MANY, OR WHERE...
WHOA.
ARGYLL?
I CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'RE YELLING ABOUT, BUT YOU NEED TO GET DOWN TO THE "CATACOMBS." SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON DOWN THERE.
ONE THING AT A TIME.
LARA-SU, WE'RE AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT. HOW'S THE DEFENSIVE GRID COMING?

WRAPPING THINGS UP HERE--JUST A SECOND!
CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON BELOW?
NO, THAT MONITOR WAS BUSTED IN THE--er--SCUFFLE.
SORRY!
IT'S FINE.
CAN YOU SHUT THE WHOLE THING DOWN?
THEN WE'LL DO IT MY DAD'S WAY.
DAD MIGHT BE ABLE TO, BUT I'D NEED A MANUAL.
HE WANTED TO REDO THE WHOLE SYSTEM ANYWAY!


I GOT THROUGH TO THE QUEEN! PATCHING HER THROUGH NOW...
HEY, SAL. HOW ARE YOU AND THE KIDS?
WE'RE ALL FINE, AND SILVER IS COMING AROUND.
DAD! DAD! YOU WERE AWESOME! WHERE DID YOU FIND FREEDOM FIGHTERS?!
AH, THE ROOM'S GOT MONITORS DOESN'T IT?
SURE DOES. YOU'VE BEEN MARVELOUS.
WE'RE NOT DONE YET. LISTEN--ALL I KNOW ABOUT THE CATACOMBS IS ITS DUNGEON. WHAT ELSE IS DOWN THERE?
ONLY THE MOST DANGEROUS THREATS TO MOBIUS THAT HAD TO BE QUARANTINED.
DAD! HEY DAD!
ONE SEC, MANIK. LIKE WHAT?
WELL, E-107 THETA, THE ANARCHY BERYL BOMB, AND...

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL AT ALL, TIKHAOS.
P-P-PLEASE DON'T C-CALL ME THAT... I'M J-J-JUST SO... HUNGRY...
PLEASE... JUST A LITTLE CHAOS ENERGY...
OF COURSE.
S-SIR! I'M RECEIVING WORD THAT KING SONIC HAS RETAKEN THE CASTLE.
KING SONIC...?
LET HIM HAVE IT. IT DOES HIM NO GOOD NOW.


NO!
TOO MUCH! TOO MUCH!!!!
NOT AGAIN!
LOSING CONTRRROL!
FORGET THIS! I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!
DARK PRESENCE FALL BACK! EVACUATE THE ISLAND!
"KING SHADOW'S GOING TO DESTROY US ALL!"

THIS IS IT FOLKS-- THE BIG PUSH. BE READY FOR HEAVY RESISTANCE FROM--
--THE DARK PRESENCE.
Huh.
RUMBLE
YOU'RE A VETERAN HERO, SIRE. IS THAT A GOOD SIGN?
THAT'S NEVER A GOOD SIGN.
KRAK

I'VE GOT YOU.
BWOOSH
BWOOSH
WATCH YOURSELVES!
LARA, GET SKYE!
AND YOU COME WITH ME, SIRE.
I-I-I CAN FLY...
LET ME HELP THIS TIME, OKAY?
REMEMBER HOW YOU DIDN'T WANT TO WRECK THE FRONT DOOR?

PERFECT TIKHAOS OVERPOWERED SPIRIT BOUND TO A GOD.
YOU CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT NOW.
Talk about being thrown into the deep end!
Can the Freedom Fighters triumph, or will their first mission be their last?
Come back for the exciting final chapter next month!